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Foreword

The mission of the Japanese Association for Dental Science is to advance dental science so as to contribute to the improvement of dental care for the nation. Our current executive office has emphasized this mission since its inauguration.

The Japanese Association for Dental Science has put forth six priority plans that we see as particularly important within our operations: construction of a system for providing academic grounds for dental care; promotion of innovation for dental care technology; promotion of academic organization reform; consideration of a dental specialist system; promotion of international cooperation, and the structure of a future framework for dental science.

Firstly, we have two organizations for the purpose of achieving the construction of a system that provides an academic base for dental care. The first is the dental care council, and, the second, the research and study committee for dental care-related issues. These organizations can respond with short- and mid-term plans, respectively.

The task of the first-mentioned dental care council is to examine appropriate compensation to medical institutions under the national dental insurance system.

In order to contribute to the preparation of a dental medical technology assessment/re-assessment proposal (to be submitted to the Central Social Insurance Medical Council) ahead of the 2012 revision of medical treatment fees, the council has started a new time study investigation.

The second-mentioned research and study committee for dental care-related issues aims to create guidelines that contribute to the appropriate selection of methods for dental disease prevention and treatment procedures based on scientific grounds.

Currently there are 18 sets of guidelines in the Japanese Association for Dental Science Medical Guideline Library, and 10 of them have been or will be published in *Minds*.

The second priority plan is for the promotion of innovation for dental care technology. We created the Vision for the Dental Equipment Industry in 2007. One aim of its creation is to encourage the addition of descriptions regarding dentistry to the 2008 revised edition of the New Vision for the Medical Equipment Industry/Medical Technology Industry. This is because the Vision for the Medical Equipment Industry created in 2003 contained no descriptions regarding dentistry. In other words, dentistry has been left behind in the advance of the medical industry and in terms of governmental support for the

medical industry. As a result, the 2008 revised edition of the New Vision for Medical Equipment Industry/Medical Technology Industry contains, for the first time, five subjects as follows: tailor-made dental care; the use of artificial tooth roots (implants) as body implantable equipment, the use of periodontal membrane sheets for regenerative medicine, development of portable dental equipment for home dental care, and the prevention for further acceleration of the 8020 promotion. Accordingly, the administrative authorities have finally decided to take into account dental care equipment as well as medical equipment. At present, examination has begun of the selection of next-generation dental science equipment in readiness for the New Dental Treatment Equipment and Dental Technology Sector Vision due for revision in 2013. Moreover, we are currently moving forward with the development of visiting home dental treatment equipment, which is a pressing issue. Our objective is to form university and company-based research and development groups for each type of equipment, to create package for the equipments that has been developed, and to develop a system in which carrying such a package will facilitate visiting home dental treatment equipment.

Next, regarding the third priority plan, the number of sectional committees participating in the Japanese Association for Dental Science has increased from 19 to 39 (as mentioned before). This allows us to adequately respond to a variety of research and study requests from the authorities and the public. That is to say, the Japanese Association for Dental Science is trying to further reinforce its role as a pipeline for appeals sent from the authorities, through the Japanese Association for Dental Science, to individual sectional committees, and, conversely, from individual sectional committees, through the Japanese Association for Dental Science, to the authorities and the nation. Also, with the coming reform of the corporation system, the organization and finances of the Japanese Association for Dental Science require revision by 2013. We believe that regardless of the form the Japanese Association for Dental Science takes on, the important thing is that it is structured in such a way as to gain the trust of the public as a neutral and independent organization, and that at the same time the framework for coordination and cooperation with dental care provider the Japan Dental Association is further strengthened.

Next, the fourth priority plan is examination of a dental specialist system. We aim to build a dental specialist system that

can coexist with the dental examination and treatment system, and we are considering measures with which we will be able to obtain the support of the public and the dental community.

The fifth priority plan is for the promotion of international cooperation. The Japanese presence in Asia seems to have diminished to some extent. Therefore, we would like to develop Japanese dental science and medicine based in Asia so as to orient Japan towards working harder together with Western countries. For this purpose, we wish to create networks to cooperate with dentists in Asia who have a Japanese university educational background, and develop Japanese dental science based in Asia with the use of those networks as hubs. Japanese university alumni associations are presently being organized in Beijing, Shanghai, Bangkok, Myanmar, Mongolia, and other cities and countries.

The sixth priority plan is for structuring a future framework for dental science. We are currently studying concepts for an institute of dental medicine to serve as a base for global research in dental medicine.

The role of the Japanese Association for Dental Science is to put its all into the rejuvenation of dental science. To this end it will obtain the expert thoughts and ideas of the individual sectional committees, arrange them in a rational form that reflects the thinking of the Association as a whole, solicit general opinion regarding them, and work them into a source of enhanced clinical and academic revitalization. Academic activity in the field of Japanese dental science can thereby be further developed. "The Japanese Dental Science Review" thus serves to communicate the outcome of such activities to the rest of the world: a role that can only grow in significance.

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